

Enrollment climbs past 750

Freshman class one of largest in school history

Taylor Houston
Co-Editor

This year O’Gorman has seen an increase in student enrollment. Fifty-three new students have joined O’Gorman and the freshman class has 222 members. “It’s always a positive feeling when you have students choosing O’Gorman, considering all their other options they still chose to come here”, said principal Kyle Groos. “It really starts to form a community.” With the enrollment of 765 students this year, numbers have been the highest they’ve been since the early 1970s. The enroll-

ment increase comes as part of a larger plan by the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools to boost student numbers. After the economic recession in 2008, enrollment in the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools began to slowly decline. With a campaign in place to boost enrollment, the system hopes to see numbers rise again. “We love the growth O’Gorman has been experiencing,” said Groos. While growing numbers are a positive for O’Gorman, there is a new challenge for teachers; their classes are filled to the brink. Some classes have as many as 30 students.

“It’s tough being part of such a large group,” said freshman Maddie Thie. “But it’s nice to have so many people to be involved with.” Groos acknowledges that the strain of so many new students can have an impact on the classroom. “Teachers will definitely need to spend more time on school work, but I’m sure it’s nothing they can’t do.” The hope for the school is to continue to see growth over the next several years. “At one point O’Gorman used to have as many as 900 students, so we can definitely handle it; it’s just a matter of re-adjusting this year,” said Groos.

2015-2016 Class Enrollments	2016-2017 Class Enrollments
Freshman 196	Freshman 222
Sophomore 157	Sophomore 204
Junior 171	Junior 166
Senior 178	Senior 173
School Total - 702	School Total - 765

Several new faces join school staff as year kicks off

Maria Lusardi
Staff Writer

The new school year is here and it’s a year of change as O’Gorman welcomes seven new teachers. They will be desperately needed due to enrolling a massive freshman class, losing eight teachers from last year, and revising standards requiring that all freshmen take biology this year in addition to the sophomores who didn’t take it last year. In the science department, Mr. Nick Tunge, Mr. Jayson Poppinga, and Mrs. Beth Odenbach will all be teaching biology to handle that load. “We’re going to do lots of dissections this year,” said Tunge, an O’Gorman graduate. He is excited for a new challenge as he transitions from being a junior high teacher to a high school teacher. Odenbach is looking forward to incorporating more vocabulary and technology into her lessons. She moved to this area from Montana to get closer to family. Poppinga also wanted to be closer to family in addition to being able to coach football. “Teaching is all about kids and getting

to do that is why I get up in the morning,” said Poppinga. It’s not just science classes experiencing teacher change-ups. Mr. Xavier Pastrano, a 2004 O’Gorman graduate, is here to teach freshman English in place of Mr. Scott Nelson, who is now serving as librarian. This will be a new experience for Pastrano who, up until now, has taught college English. “I saw this as a good opportunity to connect with students at a more formative level,” said Pastrano. There are also new faces in administration, academic services and fine arts. Mrs. Jackie Shotkoski is the new administrative assistant in the main office. She comes from Gering, Nebraska due to her husband’s job. Mr. Shannon Poppinga is teaching in academic services this year. He’s ready for a new challenge, a new environment and new people. Lastly, show choir will be directed by Mr. Brian Rasmussen. This year he plans to make show choir more theatrical by connecting all the songs into a story for each show choir.

School continues tech evolution with addition of Chromebooks

Max Stenson
Staff Writer

Keeping up with the latest technological trends is never easy, but O’Gorman High School has done just that by adding 150 Dell Chromebooks to its technology inventory over the summer. A Chromebook is essentially a laptop built solely for web access; software such as Microsoft Word cannot be installed on Chromebooks. Instead, Chromebooks are geared toward the use of Google’s Cloud platform, which includes Google Docs and Google Slides. “The advantage of a cloud platform is that students no longer need to e-mail assignments to teachers,” principal Kyle Groos said. “Everything is automatically saved onto the cloud.” Groos said there are many other benefits of Chromebooks, including the ability for teachers to create and develop assignments for students to complete in an entirely online environment. Yet another benefit is internet accessibility students will have for research. Groos said the decision to purchase Chromebooks boiled down to cost, efficiency, and convenience. The specific model of Chromebooks at O’Gorman were an outstanding value because of how durable the



Knights Scroll Juniors utilize Chromebooks in Mrs. Skar’s class. O’Gorman added 150 Chrome Books to continue to meet technological demands.

Chromebooks are. With a battery life that easily lasts an entire school day on a single charge, the need for constantly charging the devices is absent. Also, the time it takes to access the web from when a student first starts up the Chromebook is a mere 15-20 seconds. Looking ahead, the goal is to gradually phase in enough Chromebooks so that each student can have his or her own Chromebook for the whole school year, establishing a 1-to-1 environment. “Chromebooks are not meant to replace good teaching; they are meant to supplement good teaching,” Groos said. “And then, when the Chromebooks do supplement good teaching, the result will be great teaching.” The implementation of Chromebooks will “only get better,” Groos said. The Chromebooks have been well-received among students, too. “I really like the Chromebooks because of how helpful they are for research,” senior Jay Even said. “I just think we need more of them.”

Prayer, reflection key to discernment of church vocation according to faculty

Taylor Houston
Co-Editor

There are always people struggling to find their vocation, so when they officially commit to one, it's a big deal.

Over the course of the summer two O'Gorman theology teachers made their commitment to marriage.

On July 16 Jeffrey Baustian entered into the married life with his wife Jessica.

"As I started dating my wife it became obvious that this was the person I was meant to marry," said Baustian. "I made the decision easily."

Baustian spent three years in the seminary before realizing that wasn't the path God wanted him to take - that he was being called to marriage instead.

"I strove to discover what God wanted for me through prayer and reflection," said Baustian.

Catholics are called to discern their vocation, whether it be the single life, the married life, the consecrated life, or the religious life or priesthood.

Mrs Debbie Jorgensen, formerly known as Ms. Schulte,

**Vocations
at a Glance**

There are four
vocations in the
Catholic Church:

Generous, Single Life

Married Life

Consecrated Life

Ordained Life

also made the commitment to marriage on June 10 to her husband Riley.

"I always had an open mind about my vocation throughout high school and college," said Jorgensen, a graduate of O'Gorman High School. "But I never fully realized my vocation was marriage until I met Riley."

Both of these O'Gorman teachers somewhat struggled to understand what path God was calling them to pursue, but through prayer and reflection they soon enough realized it was marriage.

Students make time for spiritual growth

Avery Starr
Staff Writer

There are many spiritual prayer opportunities here at O'Gorman High School. Mass is held three days a week - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Morning prayer is held in the chapel at 7:50 a.m. Rosary is held every Monday, Reconciliation on Tuesday, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Friday, and student-led prayer over the intercom every morning.

The most populated event would be the Wednesday large group liturgy.

"My favorite part of the being the Chaplain of a Catholic High School is the students and faculty. I am honored to walk with

them in the many ups and downs of life," said Father Shaun Haggerty, the OGHS chaplain. "Just as any father is glad when his children come to him for help when they have a problem, I especially am glad when my spiritual children come to me to receive help and guidance. I also love hearing Confessions and celebrating Mass with the students and going to their different activities."

Fr. Haggerty also said leading students in prayer has inspired him to grow deeper in his faith.

"I absolutely think that the ability to pray here at O'G unifies the students," said junior Theresa Fischer. "Friendships are so much stronger when they are rooted in Christ, and when I see

my friends here at chapel during study hall I know we have something in common that is so important, and that is Christ. Our bond goes so much deeper than friends because we are brothers and sisters in Christ and being able to pray every day together brings us closer."

Fischer also said without prayer she wouldn't make it through the year.

With all these chances to get closer to God, it could be hard to decide where to start. Campus Minister Jon Konz suggests students find a time to sit alone with God every day for 10 days. He also said to read scripture and make meeting God a habit.

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
Rosary 4A	Confession 4A	Large Group Mass	Mass 4A	Mass 4A
Rosary 5C	Mass 5C	Prayer 4A	Confession 5C	Chaplet of Divine Mercy 5C
Catholic Culture		Prayer 5C		

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We want to hear it.

Write a letter
to the editor.

It's a circus as new show to hit stage

David Berman
Staff Writer

The O'Gorman theatre department is at it again, as cast, crew, and costumers are currently working hard on this year's fall play.

Stop Sending in the Clowns, written by Pat Cook, is a comedy that takes place at the Burnum and Bailout Traveling Circus.

Senior Sam Billion, who is playing Ringmaster Burnum, is excited about this production. "We have a fairly small cast, but the characters are very big and the show will be very interesting for the audience," Billion said. He also expressed his emotions over this being his final fall play

at O'Gorman. "It's going to be really weird, but I know that I will make some great memories with this group."

As a number of mysteries begin to plague the circus, Sheriff Doggleberry must deal with obstacles such as the tricks of magician Tina, a zany clown troupe, and special agents Moldie and Cully in order to get to the bottom of it all.

"I've always wanted to direct a play at O'Gorman that has a circus theme," director Scott Nelson said. "This setting will give the tech crew some very fun sets to create."

Stop Sending in the Clowns runs from Oct. 6-8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lorang Theatre.

Marching band perfects show for several fall competitions

Anna Suedbeck
Staff Writer

With practice starting at 6:45 in the morning three days a week, the O'Gorman marching band crew has been working hard to fine tune its show.

"We always look to be better than we were the day before, as a band and as individuals," said band director Ben Koch. "We have a lot to offer, and every time we take the field in rehearsal or performance, we are looking to present our very best, both visually and musically. As long as we keep that goal in mind, we can always be proud of our accomplishments."

Along with playing at all major football games, the band has been preparing for the Festival Of The Bands as well as other marching band competitions.

"I love marching band, and I joined because I knew it was going to be a lot of fun," said Haley Leisinger. "It's such a close knit



KNIGHT LEGEND

Junior Mitchell Meylor plays trombone during the halftime show at Dakota Bowl. The Knights played at homecoming and several competitions.

family." Marching band members see the group as a second home.

Koch sees mistakes as part of the marching band experience. "Making mistakes is the only way to learn anything. It's

just how the brain is wired," said Koch. "If we choose to learn from those mistakes and keep putting ourselves out there, they affect our progress in a very positive way."

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Students celebrate homecoming

Week filled with fun as weather holds out

David Berman
Nicolette Boyum

This year's homecoming was a fun-filled week of activities, featuring themed dress down days, a movie on the MAC and variety show.

Student council member Meredith Costello, who was involved in much of the planning for homecoming, was happy with how the week went. "I felt like we had great participation with the theme days and at the events. Everything went really smooth, and I feel like everyone had a lot of fun," said Costello.

Even though it was a chilly evening, students crowded onto the field with blankets and snacks to watch the Pixar movie *Ratatouille* on Monday night.

The annual variety show featured 27 acts this year, many with singing or dancing involved. The emcees of the show were Teresa Schnetter, Anna Bear, Mark Chontos and Luke Fleck.

"It was by far the most talent filled variety show I've ever seen," said Fleck. "I'm glad I got the honor of hosting it."

After O'Gorman's drumline performed, seniors Caleb Humke and Theresa Pujado were



KNIGHT LEGEND

Fans cheer on the Knights during the homecoming football game against Washington. The Knights lost 35-14.

crowned O'Gorman's king and queen.

"I'm just glad that everybody appreciated me as much as I appreciate myself," Humke said.

Rain didn't hamper the fun as nearly five inches of rain hammered Sioux Falls on Thursday.

On Friday afternoon with

clear skies, fans packed McEnaney Field for the football game versus Washington. Tied 14-14 at halftime, the Knights couldn't make it past the Warriors. Washington won 35-14.

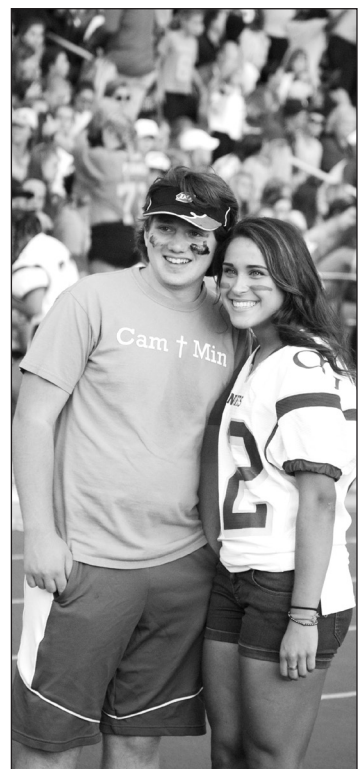
The 2016 O'Gorman Hall of Fame candidates were honored before the game, and the march-

ing band performed their field show at halftime.

After the football game against Washington, students enjoyed the homecoming dance. This year was the first in many that the dance took place outside of O-Wing, and students had a great time.

"I think that the dance being outside made for a cool atmosphere and I hope it works out again next year," said Costello.

A t-shirt drive was also held during the week to help support troops and veterans at the Veterans Administration hospital in Sioux Falls.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Left: Students decorate Mr. Basche's door during homecoming week. Middle: Students play on an inflatable game during Friday's homecoming celebration. Right: Caleb Humke and Theresa Pujado pose for a picture during the football game against Washington. Humke and Pujado were crowned O'Gorman's king and queen during the variety show on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Students travel to Germany, Costa Rica

Mattie Nguyen
Carter Edman
Maria Lusardi

O’Gorman students traveled the world this summer as groups visited Costa Rica and Germany.

The German class students went to Germany where they toured around the country and went to different museums and historical landmarks.

Some of the Spanish class students went to Costa Rica to explore the country and learn about the Central American culture.

In Costa Rica the students took part in activities and also learned about the cultural history of the Spanish language and Costa Rica in general.

“I learned a lot about the history and traditions that the people believe in along with more about the government and how it functions,” said senior JP Costello.

The students went on many different excursions while in Costa Rica.

“Whitewater rafting was so fun. Our tour guides for the rafting were awesome and made it so much fun for us,” said Costello. “The second thing would be hiking through the rainforest to see the monkeys and other animals going on these suspension bridges that were 1,000 feet in the air. I had great views.”

The German students had fun going to school with their host students and traveling around the country.

“My favorite part of the German trip was traveling to different cities and staying in different hostels,” said senior Tom Fritz.

The host families and students made many relationships that will last a lifetime. Many of the students still keep up with the people they met in Germany.



Top Left: Students stand in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany.

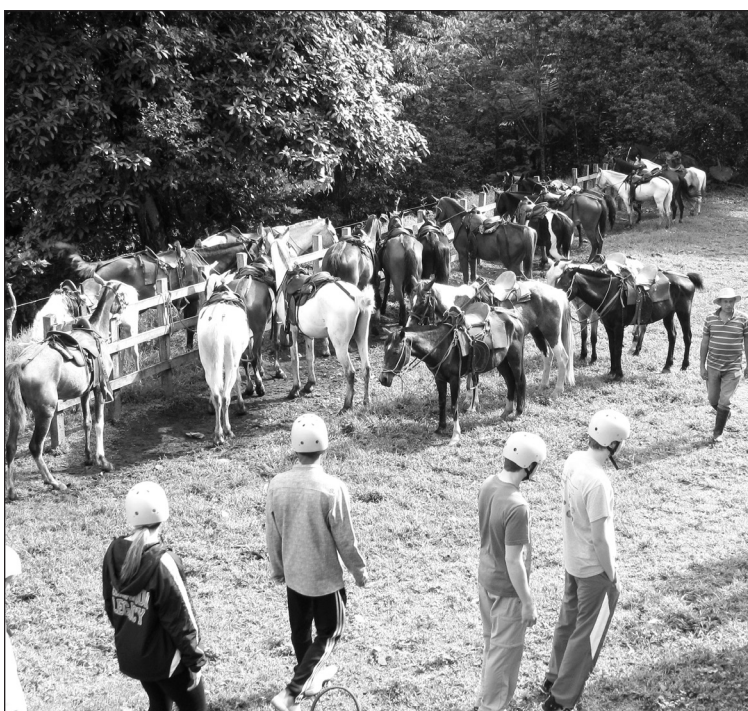
Top Right: Students stand in front of the Berlin TV Tower in Berlin, Germany. The students also ate a meal at the restaurant in the top of the tower.



Left: Students listen to a local coffee farmer discuss the process of growing and refining coffee beans in Costa Rica. While bananas and pineapple are major crops grown in the lower areas of Costa Rica, coffee is a major product grown in the mountains.

Bottom Left: Students prepare to go horseback riding in Costa Rica. Students had the opportunity to view the landscapes of the country.

Bottom Right: O’Gorman students meet Costa Rican students at a school. Both the American and Costa Rican students share information about their countries and cultures.



New coach takes over football program

Knights split first four games, fall to city rivals Roosevelt, Washington

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

After a tough loss in last year's state championship, O'Gorman is looking to bounce back with new head coach Jayson Poppinga.

Longtime head coach Steve Kueter retired after 33 years as head coach back in December of last year and Poppinga, former Pierre T.F. Riggs coach, announced his move to O'Gorman this past March.

Jayson Poppinga isn't the only Poppinga joining O'Gorman football. Shannon Poppinga is the new defensive coordinator. The brothers both left Pierre T.F. Riggs, where they coached the

same positions, to join O'Gorman.

"The opportunity to coach at a AAA school with great winning tradition" is what J. Poppinga said drew him to Sioux Falls.

O'Gorman has a revamped offense with new quarterback, senior Hunter Thompson, and sophomore standout-receiver, Canyon Bauer. At Dakota Bowl, Bauer racked up 234 receiving yards and completed nine catches, three of which were for touchdowns. Bauer gained more yards than the entire offense did the previous game against Roosevelt.

The Knights started the year with a win over Rapid City Central 19-0. They followed that up with a loss to 41st street rival

Roosevelt. The Rough Riders dominated the Knights 35-10 in a windy Presidents Bowl matchup.

The Knights roared back at Dakota Bowl, however, with a 34-22 come from behind win against Brandon Valley. But city rival Washington proved too much on homecoming as the Knights fell 35-14.

Coach J. Poppinga hopes the team will improve in upcoming games. "Our focus is always on improvement: as a team and individuals," said Poppinga. "It begins on the football field and incorporates into all areas of the player's lives."

O'Gorman plays tonight against Rapid City Stevens.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior quarterback Hunter Thompson scrambles for a first down against Sioux Falls Roosevelt during the Presidents Bowl on September 3. The Knights lost 35-10.

Lady Knights dispatch Lincoln with team effort in city matchup

Lauren Kouri
Staff Writer

On Sept. 13, the Lady Knights softball team faced the Lincoln Patriots at Sherman Park, winning the game 8-3. Senior pitcher Alex Nelson led the Lady Knights with seven Patriot strikeouts while going two for three at the plate.

"It's awesome to know that we all have 10 other people to take care of us on and off the field," said Lady Knight Brianna Balzer.

The game started with O'Gorman at bat. After a scoreless first inning, the Lady Knights delivered by scoring two runs on hits by Veronica Pitzl, Madison LeGrand and Morgan Polak.

The Lady Knights stayed hot in the third, scoring three runs with Nelson, Izzy Mattechek, and Bailey Petersen adding to the Lady Knights' hit total.

In the bottom of the third inning, Nelson pitched out of a bases loaded jam to keep the Patriots scoreless.

O'Gorman added two more runs in the fourth on a hard hit ball by Mattechek, who later scored on a single by Nelson. In their half of the inning, the Patriots scored one run to end the shut out bid by the Knights.

With the state tournament approaching Gabrielle Holbert likes what she sees: "We definitely have a chance for the state title because we have so much heart and passion."

Teammate LeGrand agrees with Holbert. "I think we have as good of a chance as anyone in our division," said LeGrand.

Lady Knights start season with hopes of state play

Carter Edman
Co-Editor

The O'Gorman volleyball team has had a rocky start to this season but they are looking to regain strength and continue to improve.

They went 2-2 to start the season with losses to Roosevelt and Harrisburg. They have defeated Lincoln and Huron.

The team features four seniors in Rylee Smith, Grace Ortmann, Rilie Curd and Morgan Hermanson. They are a close knit team which will help them win future competitions.

"We all get along very well and that's

part of what keeps us all playing because we have a lot of fun out on the court," said Curd. The team has had to call on many underclassmen to take a role in the games including some freshmen and sophomores.

The girls are excited to see what they can do this season.

"So far I am happy with the season. We are only going to improve from here on out and I'm excited to do so," said Curd.

"My goal for this season overall is to have fun. It being my last year I really want to absorb all the positive memories I can. The team has a goal of making it to state and performing to the best of our abilities there," said Curd.

Girls tennis team faces hard task as difficult road to state awaits

Taylor Houston
Co-Editor

The girls tennis team has been off to a strong start so far this season. With their practices starting as early as Aug. 8, they have already had many games, resulting in a record of 13-3.

"We have a good team, we win a lot and have a good time doing it," said senior

Kendyl Kreber. The girls tennis team has won 32 state championships in its storied history.

"We are aiming to bring home another trophy this year," said head coach Don Barnes. "We have a good group of girls, but there is for sure some competition."

The state tournament is being held Oct. 6-8 in Rapid City.

Cross country team competes in ND race under new coach

Taylor Houston
Co-Editor

The boys and girls cross country teams have had a busy start to the season, competing both in and out of state. Competing in North Dakota, the girls earned second place and the boys placed fourth.

"Our goal for both teams is to be on the awards stand at the end of the season," said new head coach Aaron Strand.

This goal is very manageable with this year's senior leaders, Abby Ripperda and Will Bentz. The younger team members look to them for leadership.

"It's a really great group to be involved in," said Isaac Wolf, "Everyone supports each other, and it makes me and everyone else want to do better."

Knights find early success against foes on golf course

David Berman
Staff Writer

The varsity boys golf team has enjoyed much success this season, as they have placed first or second at all of their meets thus far.

During the first city meet of the season at Prairie Green on August 23, O'Gorman edged out a close victory with a collective score of 301, with Lincoln and Washington finishing close behind them with scores of 303 and 305, respectively.

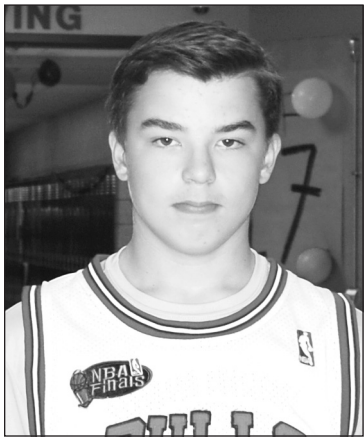
Junior Bryce Hammer had the best individual score of the day with a 69. "If we can continue to practice hard and take it one meet at a time, we have a very good chance of maintaining our current level of success," Hammer said.

The team competed at three very important meets in the span of a few days in mid-September. At the Yankton Invite on Sept. 9, the team won the meet with an overall score of 296. Pierre finished in second with a score of 300, with Lincoln and Washington placing just behind them.

Then, at the Brookings Invite on Sept. 12, they finished five shots behind Pierre for second place. Hammer once again was a medalist with a score of 69.

The next day, Sept. 13, was the second round of the City Meet at Elmwood Golf Course. The team finished with a score of 298, winning by nine strokes over their opponents and extending their overall lead to 13 strokes.

What movie are you looking forward to this school year?



“Fast and Furious 8 because it looks exciting!”
- Zakk Evers



“Fast and Furious - just like me!”
- Sarah Einsel



“I guess I’m a big Star Wars fan. Never seen a bad Star Wars movie.”
- Jack Garrett



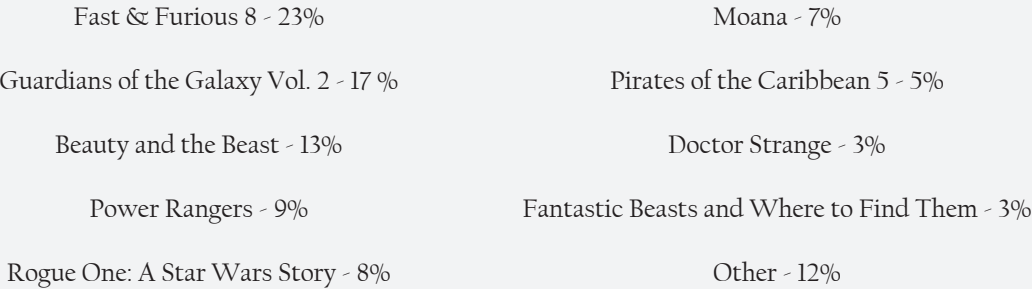
“Girl on the Train because it’s off the rails!”
- Kendyl Kreber



“Rogue One. I love Star Wars!”
- Mr. Pastrano

Scroll Poll:

100 students were surveyed about what movie they were most looking forward to this school year.



In & Out

Homework	Happiness
Stranger Things	Orange is the New Black
Baseball Playoffs	Basketball Playoffs
Freshman Drivers	No Accidents
Iphone 7	Iphone 6s
Blonde	Channel Orange
Football	Olympics
The Get Down	Straight Outta Compton
Sweaters	Swimsuits
Russell Westbrook	Kevin Durant
Pumpkin Spice Lattes	Strawberry Refreshers
Khakis	Shorts
Cursed Child	Deathly Hallows
Jimmy Garoppolo	Tom Brady
Halloween	Homecoming
Solo Careers	One Direction
Fall	Summer

School should embrace “Bring Your Own Device”

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, O’Gorman High School will have a Chromebook for every student. While exciting, it also brings on a level of worrying about funds, connectability and how the classroom will change.

But the wait is the main issue considering only the sophomore and freshman classes will have a chance to use the new Chromebooks when they are seniors and juniors.

Today’s students want the ability to use their own devices in a way that helps them in the classroom in the same way that a Chromebook would. Yet, O’Gorman High School insists it is not a bring your own device (BYOD) school.

BYOD schools have popped up all over the country, including some in our own state and surrounding areas. This method of teaching has been proven to be cost effective.

The average textbook cost goes from roughly \$75 to around \$15 with online versions. The money saved could then be re-

routed into the school’s wireless network so that a more efficient database could house the multitude of new devices and to train the school’s IT department on how to handle a bigger workload.

A majority of O’Gorman students already have devices and those that don’t can purchase a Chromebook that starts as low as \$200. The school could also implement a rental system with its already existing chromebooks so that students who cannot afford the extra expense will still have devices to use in the classroom. If the cost of being a BYOD school is still too much, a small fee could come along with renting Chromebooks.

Moving toward this way of teaching makes sense for O’Gorman. A school that constantly strives to be a Blue Ribbon school should have the newest and best methods possible.

Having a cycling Chromebook cart that isn’t always available or working when needed isn’t logical for a school that wants their students to be learning at such a high level. Efficiency in devices can help students to achieve more academic success.

Longevity of devices is a common reason why schools won’t go full Chromebook. With BYOD, devices are private property of students so there is no worry about replacing or repairing. The rental system of Chromebooks would be an issue eventually but Chromebooks are shown to last at least five years.

Being a BYOD school doesn’t have to be permanent fix for O’Gorman. A Chromebook for every student could still be a possibility in the future but in the interest of students now, embracing a BYOD policy is right for our school. Today’s students deserve to be able to use their own technology in the classroom until Chromebooks are issued to every student.

To put it simply, O’Gorman students want more access to technology. It’s not fair for current seniors and juniors who won’t be able to take part in the 2018-2019 Chromebook initiative. Not having Chromebooks could ultimately affect the way these students perform in further schooling. For the well being of O’Gorman students and faculty, the school should transition to BYOD-based learning.



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